GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:268
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
EXPANSION OF FOREST COVER
Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to expand the existing forest cover in view of air pollution, Ozone depletion and declining rainfall in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to formulate a new policy to increase forest cover in the country in view of large-scale denudation of forests;

(d) if so, the details thereof outlining the targets set and results achieved with regard to afforestation during the last three years and the current year;

(e) whether any State has requested for additional funds for increasing the forest cover; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a)to (f) A statement has been laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a),(b),(c),(d),(e) and (f) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.268 by Shri P.C. Gaddigoudar regarding "Expansion of Forest Cover" to be replied on 17.12.2008

(a) & (b) In the National Action Plan on Climate Change announced by the Government, a National Mission for a 'Green India' has been mooted as one of the eight missions to inter alia help counter the effects of climate change through afforestation programmes.The proposed national programme would focus on two objectives, namely increasing the forest cover and density as a whole of the country and conserving biodiversity.

(c) No sir, there is no change in the National Forest Policy, 1988 which aims to achieve one third of the land area of the country under forest or tree Cover.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) & (f) The major afforestation scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests,namely the 'National Afforestation Programme' provides financial assistance for regeneration and eco-development of degraded forests and adjourning areas.Under this scheme no state-wise allocation of funds is provided. The new projects as well as ongoing projects are considered as per the existing guidelines of the scheme and subject to availability of funds.The details of funds released under the scheme for the last three years and the current year are as given below:

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09(upto 3.12.08)
Amount Released	248.12	292.75	392.95	224.66